

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00
VO-05 CA-01 /047 W
-----073585 101548Z /45
O 101515Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4114

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, SOPN (MAY, , UR, US
SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR HEARST NEWSPAPERS
ACCREDITATION IN MOSCOW

REF: (A) MOSCOW 15831, (B) MOSCOW 15762

1. PRESS ATTACHE (AND ACTING P&C COUNSELOR) HARROD, ACCOMPANIED BY AIO SIGMUND, MET JULY 10 WITH MFA PRESS DEPT COUNSELOR VITALIY ZHURAVLEV (SANS DEPUTY CHIEF KHAZOV, WHO WAS REPORTEDLY DETAINED ON OTHER BUSINESS). MATTERS DISCUSSED WERE ACCREDITATION OF HEARST NEWSPAPERS' MAY AND VISA DELAY FOR PROPOSED NEW UPI CORRESPONDENT TYRELL.

2. MAY ACCREDITATION: ZHURAVLEV BEGAN WITH SET-PIECE PRESENTATION ON CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH MFA GRANTS "TEMPORARY" ACCREDITATION. HE CITED SHORT-TERM REPLACEMENTS FOR PERMANENT CORRESPONDENTS ON VACATION, PART-TIME STRINGERS HOLDING DOWN OTHER JOBS, AND FULL-TIME NEWSMEN WHO HAD LOST THEIR PERMANENT CREDENTIALS. ZHURAVLEV NOTED THAT WORKING NEWSMEN WHO VISIT MOSCOW FOR SHORT PERIODS (HE CITED RECENT STAY OF COLUMNIST JOSEPH KRAFT)
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ARE NOT GIVEN THIS "TEMPORARY" ACCREDITATION AND THAT THEY GENERALLY PURSUE THEIR INTEREST THROUGH NOVOSTI. HE SAID THIS WAS DOUBLY TRUE WHEN NEWSMAN WAS HERE (AS IS MAY) ON TOURIST VISA. THEREFORE, HE CONCLUDED, MAY, WHO IS IN USSR FOR THREE MONTHS, DID NOT NEED OR MERIT ACCREDITATION BY NORMAL MFA STANDARDS BUT WAS FREE TO DO AS HE PLEASED

IN CONJUNCTION WITH NOVOSTI.

3. IT WAS IMMEDIATELY CLEAR TO EMBOFFS THAT ZHURAVLEV WAS NOT ADDRESSING THE BASIC ISSUE AT HAND. WHEN IT WAS EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT WHAT HEARST APPARENTLY SOUGHT WAS FULL BUT NON-RESIDENT ACCREDITATION FOR MAY, ZHURAVLEV PROFESSED IGNORANCE AND SAID MFA HAD SIMPLY THOUGHT MAY WANTED TEMPORARY ACCREDITATION FOR PERIOD OF HIS THREE-MONTH SUMMER VISIT. MFA HAD NOT EVEN CONSIDERED WHAT PRESS ATTACHE AGREED WOULD BE PRECEDENT-SETTING DECISION TO GRANT MAY NORMAL ACCREDITATION AND MULTIPLE EXIT/ENTRY VISA TO COVER USSR FROM BASE IN WESTERN EUROPE. PRESS ATTACHE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST JUNIOR HAD WRITTEN DIRECTLY TO AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN PROPOSING JUST SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT, BUT ZHURAVLEV REPLIED THAT HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THIS AND IF THERE WAS SUCH A LETTER "WE HAVEN'T SEEN IT." PRESS ATTACHE NOTED THAT WHILE EXACT CIRCUMSTANCES OF ARRANGEMENT SOUGHT BY HEARST WOULD BE UNPRECEDENTED, THEY WERE NOT TOO FAR REMOVED FROM SITUATION OBTAINED FOR MANY YEARS WITH NBC, WHICH MAINTAINED CORRESPONDENT IN BERLIN AND LATER LONDON WHO POSSESSED FULL ACCREDITATION FROM SOVIET MFA. FURTHERMORE, AND ALTHOUGH HEARST IS ONLY ORGANIZATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT PRESENT SEEKING SUCH NON-RESIDENT ACCREDITATION, ESTABLISHING OF CONSTRUCTIVE PRECEDENT BY SOVIETS MIGHT BE SEEN AS SOMEWHAT REDRESSING UNFORTUNATE IMBALANCE IN NUMBER OF ACCREDITED NEWSMEN ON BOTH SIDES - SINCE OUR FIGURES SHOW ABOUT 34 SOVIET CORRESPONDENT ACCREDITED IN U.S. AND 24 AMERICANS PRESENTLY ACCREDITED IN MOSCOW. ZHURAVLEV, INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, ASKED IF HE COULD HAVE COPY OF EMBASSY'S LISTING OF SOVIET NEWSMEN IN U.S. SINCE "WE KNOW WHO THE AMERICANS ARE HERE BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHO ALL THE SOVIETS ARE IN THE U.S."

4. RECAPITULATING, ZHURAVLEV ASKED IF QUESTION BEING POSED WAS THUS FOR CORRESPONDENT WITH MULTIPLE EXIT/ENTRY VISA WHO WOULD POSSESS FULL ACCREDITATION TO COVER USSR BUT RESIDE IN ANOTHER COUNTRY "AND COME HERE TO WORK AS EVENTS WARRANTED." THIS, CONFIRMED PRESS ATTACHE, WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF HEARST'S REQUEST. ZHURAVLEV SAID THAT MFA WOULD GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO MERITS OF SUCH A PRECEDENT AND WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY ON FINAL DECISION.

5. TYRELL VISA: ZHURAVLEV SAID MFA HAD RECEIVED VISA REQUEST FOR TYRELL FROM SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ONLY AROUND JUNE 15 (UPI BUREAU CHIEF GALLOWAY TOLD US HE SENT SUPPORT LETTER TO MFA FOR TYRELL O/A MAY 19 AND THAT TYRELL APPLIED IN PARIS WITH BACK-UP IN WASHINGTON). ZHURAVLEV COULD OFFER NO REASON FOR APPARENT DELYA, BUT SAID THAT MFA WOULD NORMALLY RESPOND TO VISA

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REQUEST IN ABOUT ONE MONTH FROM DATE OF RECEIPT. IN TYRELL'S CASE, IT WAS NOW SLIGHTLY MORE THAN THREE WEEKS SINCE JUNE 15, AND ZHURAVLE SAID WE COULD EXPECT ANSWER IN "THE NEXT FEW DAYS." TRYING TO BE REASSURING BUT CLEARLY UNABLE TO GIVE AUTHORITATIVE RESPONSE, HE SAID HE "HOPED" THERE WOULD BE NO REASON TO DENY ROUTINE VISA REQUEST. (COMMENT: GALLOWAY, UPSET AT BEING SHORTHANDED DURING WHAT PROMISES TO BE EXCEPTIONALLY HEAVY NEWS WEEK, THINKS MFA HAS HELD UP TYRELL'S VISA TO PREVENT HIM FROM ARRIVING IN USSR IN TIME FOR SHCHARANSKIY/GINZBURG TRIALS.) MATLOCK

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